



THURSTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS 1 & 11
**WEST THURSTON REGIONAL FIRE
AUTHORITY**



10828 Littlerock Rd SW
Olympia WA 98512
360.352.1614

February 9, 2026 – Governing Board Business Meeting at 10828 Littlerock Rd SW, Olympia St. 1-2

Call to Order/Attendance: Commissioner Scott called the meeting to order at 17:30.

Commissioners: Ricks, Culleton, Merryman, White (Zoom), Reed (Zoom)

Chief: N. Drake

Battalion Chief: R. Stone

Captain: M. Morales

Lieutenants: J. Swecker, C. Lyon, B. Kaleiwahea (Zoom)

Firefighters: M. Bennett, B. Crabb, R. Calica

Volunteer:

Admin: Admin Svcs Director/Secretary S. Hemminger, Recruit & Retention Coord. A. Reynoldson, Admin Asst. L. Patraca (Zoom)

Union Representative: A. Trautman

Guests: Linda Shea, Emily Morales

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda: Commissioner Scott requested the Annual Report be moved to New Business agenda item 1. A. Trautman requested a discussion on GPS tracking device.

Public Comments/Presentations:

Labor Management: A. Trautman – Volunteer FF/EMT R. Calica hired to replace T. Trott who is retiring. One FF/EMT is still out on medical leave.

New Business:

1. 2025 Annual Report – Chief Drake went over the 2025 Annual Report, copy provided in Board packet.
2. Expenditure Approval – Commissioner Ricks moved to approve the total expenditure amount of \$598,024.23. Commissioner Merryman seconded the motion. Roll taken, motion carried 6-0.
3. Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2026, and January 20, 2026, Workshop meeting minutes presented. Commissioner Merryman moved to approve January 12, 2026, and January 20, 2026, meeting minutes. Commissioner Culleton seconded the motion. Roll taken, motion carried 6-0.
4. Policy 4009 Operations – Water Rescue & SOG – Water Rescue – Second review. Commissioner Ricks moved to approve Policy 2009 Operations – Water Rescue & SOG. Commissioner Culleton seconded the motion. Roll taken, motion carried 6-0.
5. Resolution 2026-002 Misc Surplus – Commissioner Culleton moved to approve Resolution 2026-002 Misc Surplus. Commissioner Merryman seconded the motion. Roll take, motion carried 6-0.
6. ALS Contract – Commissioner Scott requested this be tabled for discussion at the workshop later this month.
7. Station Furniture – Commissioner Merryman presented three different recliner styles along with price quotes to replace the aging and broken recliners at St. 1-1 and St. 1-2. Chief Drake will work with B.C. Christenson, who is over facilities, to obtain an additional quote and then make a selection.

Unfinished Business (action items): None

Unfinished Business (non-action items): None

Communications:

1. BESS Update – Chief Drake gave an update on the 2nd hearing with Thurston County hearing examiner and reaffirmed the RFA’s position of not supporting the installation of a Lithium-Ion Battery Storage facility at the corner of Sargent Rd and 183rd Ave SW. Commissioner Merryman would like to remove that property from the RFA’s response area should the facility be allowed. Commissioner Merryman stated that the health and safety of the Firefighters is our first priority.
2. Legislative Day – Commissioner Merryman reported on attending Legislative Day on January 29, 2026, stating they made a lot of connections and are working towards two separate initiatives for next year, one being that Volunteer Fire Fighters are exempt from property taxes and second being RFA’s have the ability to run M & O Levies for more than one year, as individual districts can do.
3. Maintenance & Operations Levy – Chief Drake would like this to be the topic for the workshop meeting later this month.

Department Reports:

Chief/Training/EMS/Shift Reports: Refer to printed reports.

Recruit & Retention Coordinator Update: Refer to printed report.

Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Ricks reported on Medic One, they have hired a clinic training manager, training coordinator and community needs assessment personnel. Commissioner Merryman reported on attending Legislative Day on January 29, 2026, stating they made a lot of connections and are working towards two separate initiatives for next year, one being that Volunteer Fire Fighters are exempt from property taxes and second being RFA’s have the ability to run M & O Levies for more than one year, as individual districts can do.

Good of the Order: Workshop scheduled for February 26, 2026, at 4pm.

Adjournment: The board adjourned the meeting at 1910 hours.

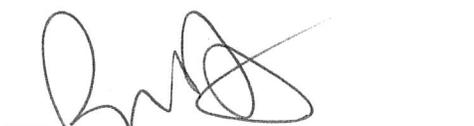
Submitted for Board approval by:


Shannon Hemminger, Secretary


Tom Culleton, Board Member


John Ricks, Board Member


Mike Reed, Board Member


Robert Scott, Board Member


Jeff Merryman, Board Member


Chris White, Board Member